THEN and NOW!

By Frances B. Paulette

"Dutch", A One Of A Kind Guy

"Dutch" Jamerson, standing and his brother, Russell, seated. The "Just In Case Picture!"

The sun was just peeping over the horizon when James Everette ("Dutch") Jamerson got out of bed. Getting up early was a habit he had acquired as a child on the farm. He had no need to glance at the calendar, he knew what day it was . . . October 10th, 1977, his seventy-fifth birthday! "Great Day", he thought, "when I was a boy I thought that seventy-five was ancient and decrepit, but now that I am that old, I don't feel quite that way!"

"Dutch" Jamerson, the successful founder of the firm J. E. Jamerson and Sons, General Contractors, a son of Roland F. and Ella W. Jamerson, was born on a farm in Appomattox County. He was one of eight children; there were four boys and four girls. Since living on a farm one and a half miles out of town, "Dutch" learned early the meaning of hard work. Mr. Jamerson told me that he had worked all of his life and he didn't figure he would quit now!

As a young child, Mr. Jamerson's health was poor; in fact, the doctor told his parents that he believed the boy to have tuberculosis and would not live to reach manhood. Faced with such a grave situation, his parents allowed him to quit school after completing the fourth grade. Believing the doctor when he said the child had only a short time to live, the parents were naturally upset beyond words. Suddenly, in addition to all of her other worries about her son the mother realized she did not have a picture of him. Something had to be done!

Dressed in his best "bib and tucker", complete with black ribbed stockings, "Dutch", accompanied by his brother Russell, boarded the train for his first train ride. Destination --- Lynchburg, to have his picture taken! (Just in case!!)

Mr. Jamerson told me of swallowing raw eggs to help his 'puny condition' and I do believe it was a miracle cure, for in the next few years Mr. Jamerson really got down to some hard work.

In 1921 and 1922 "Dutch" ran a threshing machine, going from farm to farm threshing wheat for the farmers; when it was too dark to see how to work in the late evening or that particular job was completed, he walked home.

In 1922 on October 19, Mr. Jamerson went to work for the firm of J. E. Sears and Co. His pay was 12½c an hour and he worked ten hours a day; again, he walked home at the end of a working day.

Since he now had a good job (he was making $18.00 a week now) and had been saving for the past six years, "Dutch" decided it was time to "tie the knot", "Dutch" and the former Lula Smith was married in December 1928. He laughingly recalled setting up housekeeping. It seems the young couple went to the store of the late H. M. Burge for groceries and household supplies necessary for beginning their life together. When they had gotten everything they needed, it completely filled the back of a pickup truck. Can you guess what it cost them? All of $13.00!!

Mr. and Mrs. Jamerson are the parents of three children: two sons, J. Robert Jamerson and William E. Jamerson and one daughter, Mary Jamerson Harrison. They have six grandchildren.

Mr. Jamerson went into business for himself in March of 1947 with three employees; he did not, however, begin contracting until 1952. He now has 78 in his employ. I asked him what an average seven-room, two bath home cost in 1952 and he told me, "approximately $7,000, and the same house now," he quickly added, "would be approximately $50,000.00!"

I asked Mr. Jamerson if he could remember getting into mischief. He quickly recalled the only time he ever stole anything.

His mother came into town about twice a year and this time it was "Dutch's" job to hitch the mule to the buggy and drive Mama to the store. He was aobut 10 or 11 years of age at the time.

The store of the late L. E. Smith had much to offer the shopper and "Dutch's" mother was busy looking. She had wandered to the back of the store and "Dutch" was waiting not-so-patiently at the front. Close to the front was an ice-box containing drinks for sale, among other things. Now he knew his mother would give him the price of a drink, 5c, but he didn't ask. He glanced around, didn't see anyone watching and quickly opened the ice-box and grabbed the first drink he could, a lemonade. Very quickly, without waiting to open it, he hid it inside his bib overalls.

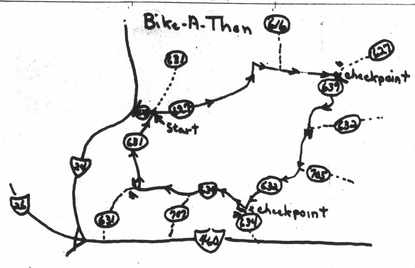
Mama was still shopping and "Dutch" had an idea! Over behind the Appomattox Hardware was stalls to accomodate the horses of shoppers and he knew he could find a nail there to open his drink. Away he went, and found a nail but it was bent and when he tried to open his drink, he broke the bottle. No drink after all! After all the trouble he had gone through stealing it, he felt kind of let-down. Slowly he walked back to Mr. Smith's tore.

When he was about half-way back, he looked up to face an elderly black lady; he couldn't remember having seen her before. Looking him straight in the eye she said, "Little Boy, did you enjoy that drink?" Maybe he hadn't seen her but one thing was certain, she had seen him! Mr. Jamerson said he had never had such a feeling of guilt as he experienced then, and for a long time after that.

From Soda-pop thief to successful businessman, Vice-chairman of the board of directors of the Farmers National Bank, member of the board of trustees of Liberty Baptist Church (he has been a member since 1916), a lot has happened to "Dutch". There are too, a lot more childhood experiences you won't want to miss. Please join me for another visit with "Dutch" next week, won't you?

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY TO HOLD IMPORTANT MEETING

There will be a very important meeting of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 104 on Monday night, October 17, at 7:30 in the American Legion Hall. All old members and eligible members (daughters, wives, sisters, mothers, etc. of Legionnaires) are urged to attend.



Route For Appomattox ACS Bike-A-Thon

Shown above is a map showing the route to be followed on Sunday, October 16, 1977 when local riders will take part in the annual Bike-A-Thon for the Appomattox County Unit, American Cancer Society.

The route is approximately ten miles long and will begin at 2 p.m. at the junction of Route 627 and Route 631. Two check-points will be set up along the way where cards can be stamped and riders will receive cold drinks and refreshments.

All safety factors have been taken into consideration - a police escort from the Appomattox County Sheriff's Department will lead the riders and the Appomattox County Rescue Squad will have a vehicle traveling with the cyclists, along with members of the squad at the check-points. The Bike-A-Thon route will be marked and signs leading into the area will warn motorists of the ride in progress.

It is the firm desire of the Appomattox County Unit, American Cancer Society to make this another safe and sane ride -- not a race!

Gospel Entertainers To Observe 1st Anniv. Sunday

The Gospel Entertainers of the Mount Shiloh Baptist Church will observe its first anniversary this Sunday evening at 3 p.m. at the church. A very exciting program has been planned according to its leader , deacon Calvin Elliott. Several musical groups have been invited to appear on the program. Members and friends are cordially invited to attend.

The Queen's contest sponsored by the local branch of the NAACP will come to a close this Sunday evening at 7:30 at the Galilee Baptist Church. The devotionals will be lead by the pastor and the senior choir of the Galilee Baptist Church. The local president, Rev. A. B. Jones will extend words of welcome and greetings to all members, visitors and friends. The guest speaker will be Mr. George A. Martin, National President of the Virginia Seminary Alumni Association. Mrs. H. P. Johnson will present gifts to the winners in the contest.

The Rev. Raymond Turner, pastor of the St. Mark Baptist Church in Amherst, Virginia was the guest minister at the Mount Shiloh Baptist Church last Sunday morning. All present enjoyed the message.

The special program sponsored by the Golden Trumpeteers at the Promise Land Baptist Church last Sunday evening was enjoyed by all. The special program was given in place of the regular evening service.

All members of the East and West Bound Sunday School Union are reminded of the annual meeting to be held at the Galilee Baptist Church this fifth Sunday beginning at 10 a.m. All schools are asked to attend.

was very good. The Aid was happy to have two of its former members present Mrs. Mattie Singleton and Miss Lulie Holcomb. The Aid also made gifts for the Pineview Nursing Home. Mrs. Jane Byrd served a delicious dinner.

Regular preaching service will be held at the Zion Baptist Church this Sunday at 11 a.m. The pastor Rev. Hankins will be in charge.

We are very happy to report that all the sick are improving.

Mrs. Mable Austin is receiving special treatment in the Lynchburg General Hospital. We hope for her a speedy recovery.

Mrs. Nellie T. Morgan is receiving special treatment in the Lynchburg General Hospital. We are happy to know that she is improving nicely.

The Rev. R. Q. Lawing was the guest speaker at the Scott Zion Baptist Church last Sunday morning.

The Rev. Harrison Kelso was the guest speaker at the Canaan Baptist Church last Sunday morning.

A very successful revival was held at the Mount Airy Baptist Church last week. The Rev. Jack Wilson was the guest speaker. Twelve young people were added to the membership of the church.

The Rev. R. Q. Lawing, Jr. was the guest speaker at the Union Baptist Church in Scottsville, Virginia last Sunday morning and was accompanied by his wife and brother.

The Ladies Aid of the Zion Baptist Church held its regular monthly meeting at the church last Sunday at 2 p.m. with the president Mrs. G. W. Wiggins presiding. The assistant sec'y Mrs. Alma B. Roberston recorded the proceedings. Mrs. Etta Edwards conducted the devotions. The meeting was very interesting. The offering

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FIRST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The Gospel Entertainers will be having their first anniversary on the third Sunday in October at 3 p.m. Several of your favorite groups will appear on the program at the Mt. Shiloh Baptist Church. We are asking you to please come Out.

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Be sure to fill in ACTUAL SCORES for these two games!
- Use this ENTIRE PAGE as your entry blank. No other means of entering will be accepted. Be sure to put your name and address in the space provided at the bottom of the page.

Mail page to: FOOTBALL, ©THE TIMES-VIRGINIAN, P.O. Box 665, Appomattox, Va.

- All entries must be received by 12 NOON ON FRIDAY OF EACH WEEK.
- Only one entry per person per week.
- Judges decision will be final.
- Employees of the Times-Virginian and their families are not eligible to enter the contest.

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